

SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Joseph A. Curtatone

Mayor

Community Representatives

Brian C. Postlewaite, Chairman
Charles Denison, Vice Chairman
Enid Kumin, Secretary
Jing Dai
Peter Coyle
Jim Gallagher
Ron Newman
Alan Moore
Doris Schartel

Ex-Officio

Mike Lambert, Office of the Mayor
Bob Trane, Board of Alderman
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
Terry Smith, Traffic & Parking
Stephen Winslow, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
Chief Anthony Holloway, Police Department

MEETING MINUTES: Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 7:00 p.m., City Hall

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING: Alan, Ron, Brian, Enid

EX-OFFICIO ATTENDING: Steve W.

GUESTS ATTENDING: Steve DaSilva

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS:

1. Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.
2. Minutes: The Committee voted all in favor to approve the February minutes, as amended.
3. Enid anticipates time constraints that will interfere with her writing up SBC meeting minutes for the next few months. Steve D. volunteered to take over on a temporary basis.
4. The bylaws of the Somerville Bicycle Committee (SBC) were reviewed. The bylaws state that no fewer than 7 community members are required for the committee to exist, and there is no mention of a limit to the number of members. Therefore there is no need to ever have to limit the number of members.
5. **Proposal**: Enid made a motion to recommend Steve DaSilva as a member of the SBC. Ron seconded the motion. **Vote: All in favor.** Steve DaSilva will be added to the SBC email distribution list.
6. Brian proposes creating subcommittees for the SBC. There is a question to whether these subcommittees are subject to meeting laws. Steve W. will investigate. Persons in the subcommittees will be responsible for reporting on the status of the project(s) of that subcommittee. These subcommittees will be:
 - Infrastructure
 - Education
 - Route Planning
 - Events
7. Brian proposes the meetings of the SBC will be broken up into the following sections:
 - Procedural Business
 - Subcommittee Updates
 - Old Business
 - New Business

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Historical Bike Ride Update: Saturday May 30th does not work for the bike ride, so it will be Sunday May 31st at 2pm. The theme of the ride is tentatively 'Historical Houses of Worship.' The rain date is tentatively Saturday June 6th.
2. Mystic River Parkway Alewife Bridge Reconstruction Update: Ron reported. The design involves widening of sidewalks, and includes bike lanes. Curb cuts could be a problem for the crosswalk. The city should be made aware that there needs to be standard ADA compliant curb cuts and crosswalk for the Somerville side of the bridge. This design should consider any possible future changes in the area (Example: Green Line) so that they can be compatible with this design. **Proposal**: The SBC will write a letter to express its view that the design of the bridge should include 12 foot sidewalks on both sides, or 14 foot sidewalks on the Somerville side and 10 foot sidewalks on the other side. The letter should also clearly indicate that the SBC is very happy with the project in general. **Vote: All in favor.**
3. Community Path Update (Cedar to Lowell): The SBC opinion will be forwarded to the mayor. Stimulus funding for Somerville is currently TBD.
4. Union Square Update: Alan reported. A few road configurations have been proposed as part of a study of Union Square. Most plans have bike lanes included, but some that have multiple travel lanes in one direction and with parking will not allow bike lanes. This will be discuss in more detail at the next meeting.
5. Somerville Ave / Beacon St. Intersection: Steve W. recommended a scheme for bike lanes on Somerville Ave in the vicinity of Beacon St., and a draft plan was shown to the SBC. A plan for connecting Beacon St. bike lanes to Somerville Ave. is needed, and then the left and right bike turning design can be detailed. Brian will sketch up his ideas for this intersection.
6. Bike Map: Steve D. reported. The 'March 2009' draft revision of the map was reviewed by the SBC. Twenty-one changes were identified. Steve will make the changes and forward the revised draft to the SBC for approval.
7. Bike Lane Ordinance: **Proposal**: The SBC will write a letter to the mayor to discuss the Police Department's disagreement with the bike lane ordinance, to help resolve the differences. Brian will write the letter. **Vote: All in favor.**
8. Pedestrian Crossing Signals: It has been proposed that pedestrian lead phasing could be piloted at a well selected intersection to try it out.
9. Community Path Update (Davis Square): The details for the ramp from the MBTA headhouse are not yet complete.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Infrastructure:
 - Elm St.: Twenty-two sharrows would be required on Elm St. Brian and Steve W. to review.
 - Mossland St.: Needs to be measured before a request can be made for sharrows or a bike lane.
 - Willow St. (Highland to Broadway): Could be sharrows.
 - Infrastructure Subcommittee: Brian and Steve D. to be on this subcommittee of the SBC.
2. Beacon Hotel Update: Status to be given at the next meeting by Steve W.
3. Artbeat: Is scheduled for July 16th. SBC table organization is needed, and will be looked into by Alan.
4. Annual Report: The draft of the annual report was sent out to the SBC.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m. The next meeting is 7:00 p.m., April 21, 2009 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve DaSilva, Acting Meeting Minute Taker